

# What WE Are Doing

## Delaware Div. of Fish & Wildlife is focusing on several areas of bat research:

**Multi-Agency Collaboration:** Delaware is part of a nation-wide agency team of state and national biologists tracking White-nose Syndrome. This team plans research and projects designed to find answers about the disease.



**Individual Bat Data Collection:** Delaware is collecting information on the size and location of maternity colonies statewide. At a subset of these sites, we are collecting more detailed information including taking morphological measurements (i.e.



weight, forearm length, etc.), collecting DNA and skin samples for WNS analysis and for other research projects. Bats

are banded to identify and trace that individual if captured in the future by researchers.

### Maternity Colony Monitoring – “The Bat Spotters”:

In a statewide project, volunteers adopt and monitor maternity colonies. Information collected shows any changes in the colony’s numbers during the summer, and from year to year. This information will be used



to track changes in Delaware’s bat populations over time, and determine if management or conservation actions are needed.

**Acoustic Monitoring:** In 2011, using acoustic detectors and software will determine the bat species in maternity colonies. Volunteers will also help in a statewide monitoring effort (with 14+ other states participating) to drive transects with bat detectors on their cars and record species and abundance information.



**Guidance:** Provide guidance to people with bats in their buildings, and Best Management Practices to Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators working with bats.

**Boy Scouts:** Provide guidance to Boy Scouts who are building bat boxes as a troop or for Eagle Scout projects.



**Live and Dead Bats:** Live and dead bats are examined by the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife for obvious and hidden signs of White-nose Syndrome.

*All Photos: DE F&W*